

A COLORED CAR CO.

The Thrifty Colored People of Florida Operate Their Own Street Cars and Thus Destroy Jim Crow Cars.—Good Words for a Great Race Newspaper.—The Color-Line in the Trades.

Jacksonville, Fla., Sept. 17th, Special.—I am a constant reader of The Colored American, and I find so much straight up right talk in it I am compelled to say to you I think your paper is the paper of the colored man to read, as he will find so much to interest him in his every day life. I live three miles from the city in a white settlement; the owners were only too glad to sell to a colored man. This was five years ago. Now to-day it is settled up by white people only. No land is sold to a colored man at any price now. There is a street car line from here to the city; six months ago Council passed an ordinance prohibiting colored people from riding in the front part of the cars or in the center, the rear seats being set apart for colored people and if the car become crowded the colored man must get off or stand on the platform. If he resisted the conductor he was promptly arrested and his fine was to be \$500.00 or 2 years in the States prison. That was the ordinance, passed. As soon as the colored people scrambled up to the place, they had a Northern white man to assist them in getting a charter and they built themselves a railroad of their own and erected a fine pavillion for dancing and other amusements. The travel, of course, went the way the Negro pavillion was built on. The white street car company began getting jealous; they felt their treasure box, and the Negro nickles were short, so now Negroes can sit on any seat in any of the cars and ride as grand as any white man and as far as he chooses to. You are right when you say, "Stop spending your money with the white man; that will bring about recognition than any thing else. Boy got their business houses and railroads and steam boats all that you can and in a few years they will see the results." I am a brick mason by trade and have learned and served with all classes of mechanics. I am master of my trade. A few years ago F. M. Flagler built a very fine hotel at St. Augustine, Fla. I applied for work; they gave me a job. They first put me with what they called the Negro gang, on the rough part or back end of the building, the white men were on the front part. Some of the whites were not fit for hod carriers. Of course, they were very soon fired if they could not hold up and compete with their

white brothers; they saw from my work I was a good mason; they carried me to the front and put me to work on a piece of work that every white mason had failed on and I completed my job satisfactorily. The whites then made complaint to the foreman that they did not want to work with a Negro; they then managed to keep me on the front on difficult job to myself, that being the order of the general boss. The foreman hated a colored man worse than he would a snake, and although he kept me on the front work until the job was finished, but would never raise my wages up with the white masons, yet I did the best work and most difficult jobs on the hotel. Now, that goes to show you that the colored man will be kept in the rear at all times and in all cases if possible; but the colored people will not agree with me when I tell them to spend their money with their own color and try by every means to teach and persuade your friends to do the same. Right here where I am living the whites want me to contribute towards building their church, near me, but they do not want me to visit their church and become a member; that would be a disgrace. There is a very wealthy white man who bought a large tract of land adjoining my land and is now preparing to build himself a handsome residence. As soon as he found out that a colored man owned a tract of land adjoining his he was thunderstruck. He came to me at once to buy me out, with this pitiful excuse, that he needed my land to straighten out his line of land. I asked a very reasonable price, but he said it was too much; he would not pay no such price. He turns right around and offers a white man \$500 for his part if he would get into possession of my land. Mind you, he agrees to pay my price to this man and \$500 more for his individual part. Now, that goes to show you how things work to him that has a dark skin. We must stand together, if we are to ever amount to any thing and as soon as we do that we will be recognized the quicker and will be a grand race yet. I get The Colored American from my friend Jackson here, every week.

W. S.

SERGT HAWKINS ENTERTAINED.

Dr. Robert W. Plummer and wife, of Second and H streets southwest, entertained in honor of Sergt. Emmett Hawkins of the 24th Infantry, last Monday evening. Quite a select number of friends of the doctor and his wife attended and received Sergeant Hawkins with an ovation, and made the evening's entertainment very pleasant for him.

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TESTIMONIAL

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(WHEN WRITING MENTION THIS PAPER)

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(WHEN WRITING MENTION THIS PAPER)



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The Colored American